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Wednesday, 26 January 2011, 10 a.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Barbalić	(Bosnia and Herzegovina)
Members:	Brazil	Mrs. Viotti
	China	Mr. Li Baodong
	Colombia	Mr. Osorio
	France	Mr. Araud
	Gabon	Mr. Moungara Moussotsi
	Germany	Mr. Berger
	India	Mr. Hardeep Singh Puri
	Lebanon	Mr. Assaf
	Nigeria	Mrs. Ogwu
	Portugal	Mr. Moraes Cabral
	Russian Federation	Mr. Dolgov
	South Africa	Mr. Mashabane
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Parham
	United States of America	Ms. Rice

Agenda

Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan

Report of the Secretary-General on the Sudan (S/2010/681)

Report of the Secretary-General on the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (S/2011/22)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan

Report of the Secretary-General on the Sudan (S/2010/681)

Report of the Secretary-General on the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (S/2011/22)

The President: Under rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure I invite Mr. Ibrahim Gambari, Joint African Union-United Nations Special Representative for Darfur, who is joining today's meeting via video teleconference from El Fasher; and Mr. Atul Khare, Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2010/681, which contains the report of the Secretary-General on the Sudan; and document S/2011/22, which contains the report of the Secretary-General on the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur.

I now give the floor to Mr. Khare.

Mr. Khare: Allow me to begin by referring to the political process for Darfur. Despite the incidents of violence in Darfur in recent months, there has been some progress in the ongoing negotiations in Doha.

In November, joint negotiating committees from the Liberation and Justice Movement and the Government concluded their work in the broad areas of power-sharing, justice and reconciliation, compensation, the return and resettlement of refugees and internally displaced persons, and security arrangements. This work has demonstrated that the parties have significant areas of common ground. However, important points of disagreement remain, particularly related to the powers of a regional authority to implement the peace agreement in Darfur and a vice-presidency post for Darfur. The mediation has made a series of proposals to address these issues and is currently planning work throughout February with all parties in Doha to achieve consensus on the terms of peace.

The 16 December decision of the Justice and Equality Movement to return to Doha and resume negotiations on a ceasefire with the Government was also a positive development. The mediation has stressed that the basis for a comprehensive and inclusive peace agreement remains a cessation of hostilities on the ground. In this regard, it has consistently urged all parties to the conflict to cease fighting and join the talks in Doha. While Abdul Wahid has not yet joined the talks, he continues consultations with his movement on the possibility of coming to Doha. Recently, he has indicated that he may send a delegation in the near future.

On 6 November, the African Union-United Nations Sudan Consultative Forum agreed to begin planning for a Darfur political process, to take place within Darfur. The Darfur political process would be based on the outcomes of the Doha process and work to build support within Darfurian communities for the key principles arising from the Doha negotiations. It has been agreed that the Darfur political process will be led by the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) and the African Union (AU) High-level Implementation Panel, with the support of interested stakeholders.

The credibility of the Darfur political process will depend on the steps the Government of the Sudan must take to create a conducive, enabling environment. Key aspects of an enabling environment include the protection of the civil and political rights of participants in an atmosphere where they can present their views without fear of retribution; freedom of speech and assembly to permit open consultations; freedom of movement for participants and UNAMID; and proportional and equitable participation among Darfuri interests.

At a 16 December meeting with Joint Special Representative Ibrahim Gambari, AU High-Level Implementation Panel Chairman Thabo Mbeki and the Presidential Adviser of the Government of the Sudan, Mr. Ghazi Salaheddin, it was agreed that a joint UNAMID-Government of the Sudan technical task force would be established. The task force would monitor the conditions for an enabling environment, which must be established as a prerequisite to the Darfur political process and to develop modalities for implementing that process when it is initiated. The importance of an enabling environment was again discussed on 12 January at a meeting with Joint Special

Representative Gambari, Adviser Salaheddin and United States Special Envoy Scott Gration.

We understand that various stakeholders in the Darfur peace process have expressed differing views regarding the timing and content of the Darfur political process, as well as its possible relationship to the Doha talks. The Secretary-General is currently reviewing these issues with a view to establishing a clear vision for the way forward.

The unprecedented international attention and cohesion regarding the Sudan's landmark referendum also represents an opportunity to generate renewed focus on Darfur. The situation in Darfur, as part of a broader set of centre-periphery dynamics that affect populations throughout the country, should be considered within the national framework of the Sudan and the many challenges facing the country as a whole.

I will now turn to the Secretary-General's report on the Sudan (S/2010/681) and the ongoing referendum for Southern Sudan. Since the last briefing to the Security Council on 18 January (see S/PV.6468), all ballots cast in the Southern Sudan referendum have been counted and are in the process of being verified and approved. Preliminary results are scheduled to be announced on 2 February. Barring any legal appeals, the final results will be declared on 7 February and, in the case of appeals, a week later on 14 February. Early indications of results from the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission point to an overwhelming vote in favour of secession.

As the Council is aware, the referendum in Abyei did not take place pending the outcome of negotiations on the disputed area's status between the parties to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). I am pleased to report that, since the Council was last briefed, there have been no major incidents of violence reported in Abyei. The agreements reached by community leaders on 13 January and between the Ministers of Interior of the Government of the Sudan and the Government of Southern Sudan on 17 January, relating to migration and security in the area, have largely held and are being gradually implemented.

The agreed deployment of two additional battalions of joint integrated units to provide security in the area is expected to be completed by tomorrow, 27 January. Nevertheless, with seasonal migrations scheduled to resume shortly, tensions on the ground between the Misseriya and Ngok Dinka communities remain high. The United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS) continues its efforts to deter a return to violence through the increased deployment and patrols of its troops, but in the absence of a permanent settlement of the status of Abyei, the resumption of violence remains an ever-present threat. In this respect, we are encouraged that President Al-Bashir and First Vice-President Kiir are scheduled to meet again tomorrow, 27 January, to resume discussions on Abyei, with the support of the AU High-Level Implementation Panel chaired by President Mbeki.

UNMIS and the United Nations country team have also redoubled their efforts to engage with the authorities in Abyei and Southern Kordofan to ensure the safety and well-being of Southern returnees caught in the violence of the past weeks. On 22 January, the movement of convoys in and around the Abyei area resumed with protection from local authorities, and no incidents of violence were reported.

The many challenges to stability in the North and South require a commitment by the authorities to inclusive political participation. In this context, the Government of Southern Sudan continues to make progress on its road map for political accommodation, reaching out to other political parties and forces, including those that rebelled against the Sudan People's Liberation Movement after the April elections. On 22 January, Vice-President Salva Kiir announced the formation of a constitutional review committee, as called for during the all-party conference of October 2010.

While President Al-Bashir's meeting on 22 January with the National Unionist Party, the largest opposition party in the North, to discuss future political arrangements is a step in the right direction, we are concerned by reports from Khartoum of the arrest of opposition leaders and other activists. The Government of the Sudan will, I hope, continue on the path of democratic transformation in the spirit of the CPA.

The ongoing popular consultation processes in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile states continue to make steady, albeit slow progress. It is crucial that these processes, mandated by the CPA, proceed in a transparent way and address the complex political and security issues, as well as popular grievances, in these states. Public hearings commenced in Blue Nile state on 14 January and continue in a relatively positive atmosphere. A new timetable for elections in Southern

Kordofan state has been announced, with registration set to begin on 24 January. It is hoped that both processes can be completed before the end of the CPA interim period. UNMIS will continue to monitor progress and provide assistance where appropriate.

While the referendum passed without major incident, the parties must refocus their efforts on concluding negotiations over post-CPA arrangements. They continue to meet at all levels and have committed themselves to reconvening the negotiation process early next month. We are confident that the parties, through the mediation efforts of President Mbeki, will make swift progress in the period ahead. We also believe that stability in the North and the South will be mutually reinforcing and expect the international community to recognize the courage and sacrifice of both leaderships as we enter the final days of the CPA's interim period.

In order to support the efforts of both UNMIS and UNAMID and take forward the United Nations key priorities, the Secretary-General will attend the African Union Summit in Addis Ababa on 30 and 31 January, where, alongside African Union Chairman Jean Ping, he will participate in a high-level meeting on regional and international support for the Sudan. We anticipate that this will be an opportunity to harness the unprecedented international attention and goodwill towards Sudan and assist the parties in meeting the many challenges facing the country today.

The President: I thank Mr. Khare for his briefing.

I now give the floor to Mr. Gambari.

Mr. Gambari: I would like to express my appreciation for this opportunity to brief the Security Council on the latest developments in Darfur. I also take this opportunity to welcome the new members of the Security Council — Colombia, Germany, India, Portugal and South Africa — and to pledge the same cooperation of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) with them as we extend to the other members of the Council.

As Under-Secretary-General Le Roy highlighted during his briefing to the Council on 6 January, we are deeply concerned at the renewed violence that took place in December in Northern and Southern Darfur as a result of the deteriorated relations between the Government and Sudan Liberation Army-Minni Minawi (SLA-MM). Since then, UNAMID and the humanitarian community have worked vigourously to address the humanitarian and protection consequences of these clashes, which have included the displacement of an estimated 43,000 people, 15,000 of whom have gathered around UNAMID team sites in Shangil Tobaya, Khor Abeche and Shaeria.

While camps for internally displaced persons (IDPs), such as Zam Zam and Dar al-Salam, have registered some new arrivals as a result of this conflict, the bulk of new displacement is expected to be temporary. In that regard, UNAMID forces have maintained a robust presence and have increased patrolling in the villages affected by the recent fighting so as to create a security environment that would allow for the early and safe return of recently displaced people.

Unfortunately, in what seems to be a continuation of the events of December, violence between the Government of the Sudan and SLA-MM re-erupted as recently as 24 January in the village of Thabit, located along the road between El Fasher and Shangil Tobaya. UNAMID has also received reports of an operation on the same day by the Sudanese Armed Forces on the village of Abu Zerega, in the same area. On 25 January, fighting continued in the general area between El Fasher and Shangil Tobaya. Reports received indicate that elements of the Sudan Liberation Movement led by Abdul Wahid al-Nur (SLM-AW) and the Liberation and Justice Movement had joined the SLA-MM in those clashes. The UNAMID team site in Shangil Tobaya reported sounds of artillery fire. The Government blocked the main road between El Fasher and Shangil Tobaya to all traffic.

Accordingly, UNAMID and the humanitarian community have not yet been able to access the area; but we will persist in our efforts to be able to verify the situation, and in particular the impacts of the ongoing clashes on the civilian population. As of this afternoon here in Darfur, fighting in the area has subsided, but tensions persist and a resumption of violence between the belligerent parties is possible.

While I am pleased to report to the Council that the UNAMID staff member who was held hostage for 91 days was released unharmed on 5 January, I am most saddened by the fact that, since then, we have suffered yet another hostage-taking incident in Darfur. On 13 January, three Bulgarian air crew members working for a contractor of the United Nations

Humanitarian Air Services (UNHAS) were abducted by unidentified armed elements upon landing in Um Shalaya, West Darfur. The consequent decision by UNHAS to suspend flights to unsecured landing sites in West Darfur is likely to impact negatively on access to deep-field locations. As a mitigating measure, UNAMID will provide security at helicopter landing sites at our team sites in order to minimize the disruption to humanitarian operations.

Meanwhile, I am pleased to report to the Council that the Mission is taking further steps to improve the situation of access in Darfur. In a meeting with UNAMID military and police leaders on 4 January, I issued firm instructions that henceforth we would adopt a more robust posture and no longer create the impression of seeking permission for movement within our area of responsibility. I reinforced that message in my meeting in Khartoum on 6 January with Presidential Adviser Ghazi Salaheddin, who holds the Darfur portfolio and who reconfirmed to me the Government's policy of allowing UNAMID freedom of movement throughout Darfur. Just two days ago, I repeated the same message to the Walis of South Darfur and West Darfur.

Since then, UNAMID supply and logistics convoys to all team sites, as well as humanitarian convoys to Khor Abeche, Shaeria and Shangil Tobaya, have faced no impediments. On other occasions, we were able to push our way through due to the robust posture and persistent negotiations by the patrol commanders, as exemplified on 23 January when a UNAMID formed police unit patrol team and an integrated UNAMID-United Nations country team were dispatched to the Zam Zam IDP camp, close to El Fasher, to verify the situation during and after a cordon-and-search operation by the Government inside the camp. They were initially stopped outside of Zam Zam by military personnel of the Government of the Sudan, but shortly thereafter were allowed to proceed. We insisted on proceeding.

However, I also have to report that in other instances we have not yet been fully successful. For example, as of today, humanitarian agencies have not secured access to Dar al-Salam, in North Darfur, which is another location of recent fighting. As recently as 23 January, Government military personnel denied access to a UNAMID verification patrol that was about to enter Dar al-Salam. This issue has been raised again with Government authorities, and we are awaiting their response.

I have been informed that the Council has expressed interest in the issue of access to Jebel Marra. I would like to address this issue and give the Council an overview of the situation there. Jebel Marra is a mountainous region at the midpoint between three Darfur states, namely, North, South and West Darfur. Significant portions of Jebel Marra have been cut off from humanitarian and UNAMID access since February 2010 — slightly less than a year ago — due in part to fighting, primarily between the Sudanese Armed Forces and forces of the Sudan Liberation Movement led by Abdul Wahid al-Nur. On repeated occasions throughout 2010, UNAMID and humanitarian agencies attempted to gain access to points in Jebel Marra in order to assess reports of fighting and, principally, to deliver aid to affected communities. On nearly all occasions, those attempts were prevented by SLA-AW and Government forces.

However, more recently, UNAMID and some agencies have gained access to certain areas within Jebel Marra. For example, on 13 November, UNAMID conducted two patrols to the eastern and western parts of Jebel Marra, including to Guldo and Golo, on the western side, and Tarny, Gosdor and Turty, on the eastern side. On 11 December, another verification patrol visited Guldo and Golo and assessed the situation as generally calm.

Planned patrols to Eastern Jebel Marra from Sector South were delayed due to the outbreak of fighting between Sudanese Armed Forces and SLA-MM in Khor Abeche. However, on 13 January, a long-range patrol from Sector South reached Deribat through a route controlled by the Government. More of these patrols are planned in the near future so as to further expand access in the area.

Meanwhile, Eastern Jebel Marra remains a focus of UNAMID and country team efforts to open space and allow for the delivery of emergency relief supplies. On 23 December, a joint UNAMID-UNICEF child demobilization mission visited the area of Golombei. On 11 January, a joint UNAMID-UNICEF-World Health Organization mission reached Kaguro, in the Jebel Si area, delivering vaccines and medical supplies for about 3,000 children as part of an accelerated routine immunization campaign. The UNAMID team site in Sortony, North Darfur, also provides assistance

to UNICEF in its efforts to open additional water bore holes in the eastern parts of Jebel Marra.

UNAMID therefore continues to work jointly with United Nations agencies to further expand access to eastern Jebel Marra. Discussions are ongoing to identify additional locations for a possible permanent presence by UNAMID and humanitarian actors. The Mission is also continuing to streamline procedures to speed up flight clearances.

While UNAMID will continue to patrol into Jebel Marra, it is important to underscore the need to balance our efforts with regard to Jebel Marra with the ongoing protection requirements following the fighting in Khor Abeche, Shangil Tobaya and Shaeria, as well as the required preparedness to react to potential hotspots along the border with Southern Sudan and elsewhere in Darfur. No doubt, Jebel Marra is an important area in Darfur that will remain a priority for UNAMID efforts. But I want to remind members of the Council that there are challenges throughout Darfur that all require our presence and full support.

In that regard, the current report (S/2011/22) on UNAMID details the overall protection-of-civilians strategy for the Mission. UNAMID's protection strategy identifies objectives and tasks to engage with and assist the Government to carry out its responsibilities in accordance with its international obligations.

Some of the key priorities of that strategy are for the Mission to not only maintain a robust and integrated presence in the areas of potential hostilities in order to deter violence — and deterrence is key — but also provide direct protection, secure humanitarian space, and monitor and provide accurate and verified reporting based on engagement with all sides. Furthermore, in an effort to continuously improve our operational preparedness, we have reviewed our initial response to the fighting in Khor Abeche on 10 and 11 December 2010 and will incorporate lessons learned into our operational procedures in the future.

As I have stated on previous occasions, including in remarks to this Council, it is my belief that in order to achieve lasting stabilization in Darfur, we must seize all opportunities to build on positive trends in order to allow displaced populations to regain a sense of normality in their lives and move beyond aid dependency. I have always said that we have to refrain from regarding as normal the abnormal situation of having more than 1.8 million people in IDP camps. In that regard, I recognize the improved dialogue and collaboration between central and state-level authorities, humanitarian workers and UNAMID through the reactivation of collaborative mechanisms, such as the High-level Committee on Darfur and state-level committees.

If any efforts in that regard are to be fruitful, however, the fighting in Darfur must stop, and stop immediately. The renewed clashes over the past two days have very likely caused new displacements and suffering of the civilian population, which has suffered too much already. The full extent of the impact will become clear in the coming days.

I have engaged the Government and SLA-MM, calling for restraint and an immediate cessation of hostilities. I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate that call and to urge those members of the Council who have influence to exercise it so that we can bring about a cessation of hostilities sooner rather than later.

I am sorry that I have spoken for a bit longer than I had planned, but it has been a while since I have spoken to Council members directly on behalf of UNAMID.

The President: There are no further speakers inscribed on my list. I should now like to invite Council members to informal consultations to continue our discussion on the subject.

The meeting rose at 10.45 a.m.